results; (e) configuration management; (f) installation / back-out documentation and procedures; (g) training material; (h) systems manuals; (i) disaster recovery plan; (j) deployment documentation; (k) rollout and implementation plans; and (l) test scripts,

wherein the fifth set of deliverables includes one or more of the following

5   deliverables: (a) test results; (b) disaster recovery procedures; (c) support scripts and manuals; (d) warranty; (e) on-call procedures; (f) maintenance manuals; (g) help desk scripts; and (h) and disaster recovery procedures,

wherein the sixth set of deliverables includes one or more of the following deliverables: (a) escalation procedures pertaining to a hierarchical sequence of steps

10   that may be used by the "recipients" of the IT product to demand that changes be made to the IT product; (b) on-call procedures; (c) solution metrics; (d) project evaluation documentation; and (e) a support defects log, and

wherein the seventh set of deliverables includes one or more of the following deliverables: (a) explanation/documentation of variation of planned product to actual

15   realized product; (b) best practices sharing; (c) process improvement opportunities; (d) relevant project documentation; and (e) a benefits monitoring plan.

17.   The system according to claim 15, wherein information provided in the third file identifies the following approval steps:

submitting the first deliverables to one or more authorizing agents in a first

20   approval step to determine the viability of the project after the first principal step;

submitting the second deliverables to one or more authorizing agents in a second approval step to determine the viability of the project after the second principal step;

submitting the third set of deliverables to one or more authorizing agents in a

25   third approval step to determine the viability of the project after the third principal step;

submitting the fourth set of deliverables to one or more authorizing agents in a fourth approval step to determine the viability of the project after the fourth principal step;

30   submitting the fifth set of deliverables to one or more authorizing agents in a fifth approval step to determine the viability of the project after the fifth principal

step; and

submitting the sixth set of deliverables to one or more authorizing agents in a

sixth principal step to determine the viability of the project after the sixth principal

step.

5   18.   The system according to claim 14, wherein the information provided

regarding the structured process additionally includes fourth data regarding

deliverable-outputs produced by the project and the timing at which the deliverable-

outputs should be generated.

19.   The system according to claim 18, wherein the system additionally

10   includes at least one tool that can be utilized to provide assistance in executing the

structured process, and wherein the information provided regarding the structured

process additionally includes fifth data regarding the identify of the at least one tool.

20.   The system according to claim 19, wherein the at least one tool

includes a worksheet for use in performing at least one step.

15   21.   The system according to claim 14, wherein the database access device

comprises an output device configured to present information regarding the status of

the project, including an indication of the level of completion of each of principal

step.

22.   The system according to claim 14, wherein the database access device

20   comprises a computer.

23.   The system according to claim 14, further including:

at least one other database access device which is configured to access

the database; and

a network configured to communicatively connect the database access

25   devices together.

24.   A system for assisting a user in managing an information technology

(IT) project to develop an information technology (IT) product, comprising:

a database providing information regarding a structured process for

developing the project, the structured process including a plurality of principal steps,

30   each having at least one substep;

a database access device configured to access the database and allow the user

to interact with the information, to thereby perform the principal steps and substeps;

wherein the database access device includes an output device configured to present information regarding the status of the structured process, including an indication of the level of completion of each principal step;

5   wherein information regarding the structure process provided in the database identifies the following principal steps:

assessing the feasibility of the project in a first principal step to determine whether to proceed with the project, and generating a first set of deliverables;

10   performing initial project analysis in a second principal step to determine the project's functional requirements, and generating a second set of deliverables;

designing the IT product in a third principal step, and generating a third   set of deliverables;

15   building the IT product in a fourth principal step, and generating a fifth set of deliverables;

testing the IT product in a fifth principal step to determine the viability of the project, and generating a fifth set of deliverables;

implementing the IT product in a sixth principal step, and generating a

20   sixth set of deliverables; and

terminating the IT project, including evaluating the project, and generating a seventh set of deliverables.

25.   The system according claim 24, wherein the indication of the level of completion comprises a thermometer-type display for each principal step.

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